**From:** Dara Freedman-Weiss
**To:** McGovern, Marc
**Subject:** Re: Call for Transparency and an end to the Demonization of Israel
**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 12:13:24 PM

---

Dear City Council Member McGovern,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful response. I agree there should be a more general conversation about the city's relationship with countries that violate human rights and not one that unfairly targets Israel. If you find out any other information you are able to share about the order, I would love to be kept informed. You are still the only council member who has responded to me.

Sincerely,
Dara
--
***Dara Freedman-Weiss, MBA/MA***
*justdara@gmail.com*

On Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 9:01 PM McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Thanks for getting back to me. The group who is trying to get the order passed has shown the order to a number of councillors. I have seen it. I am not sponsoring it so it is not my order to share. I am trying to come up with a different order that gets to a more general conversation about the City's relationships with countries that are on the UN's list of human rights violators. For example, we have a sister city relationship with a city in China that is their largest toy manufacturer. There are significant human rights issues. I would like the city manager to report back to the community on any financial or political relationships with have with countries on the UN list. If this is truly about human rights, then it can't be just about Israel. As far as city councillors talking to each other, as long as no more than 4 councillors talk to each other then it's not a problem in terms of the open meeting law. At this point I don't know of any councillor who is going to officially sponsor their order. The one councillor who was most supportive is backing off. This may not even come before us at all.
>
> Marc McGovern
> Mayor, City of Cambridge
> 795 Mass. Ave
> Cambridge, MA 02139
> 617-349-4321 (office)
> 617-642-1731 (cell)
>
> All emails to and from this email address are subject to the Public Records Law and may be made available to members of the public. Anything you do not want subject to that law should be sent to me at marcmcgovern@gmail.com
>
> ---

**From:** Dara Freedman-Weiss <justdara@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:42:26 PM
**To:** McGovern, Marc
**Subject:** Re: Call for Transparency and an end to the Demonization of Israel

Dear City Council Member McGovern,

Thank you for getting back to me; you are actually the only City Council member who has done so thus far. Is there a reason that the order is not being made public if it is already under discussion among city council members and is going to be voted on at the upcoming meeting?

Don't Cambridge residents have a right to know what is coming before its city council especially if council members are already able to discuss the intent and purpose of the order? As a Cambridge resident, it is unsettling to me that members of City Council seem to be contributing to the lack of transparency surrounding an order that from what I have been able to glean unfairly targets Israel with the main purpose of demonizing the country but couches this main purpose in larger human rights issues via Hewlett Packard. As someone who cares deeply about human rights and who works in the Jewish community in Boston, I can tell you it would hugely alienate me to feel that the city in which I live supports a boycott such as the one being proposed, whatever the language may be.

Cambridge is a great city that I am proud to call home. We get a lot of things right and I hope we continue to do so!

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter and I am pleased to hear that you are not a sponsor of this order.
Sincerely,
Dara
--
***Dara Freedman-Weiss, MBA/MA***
*justdara@gmail.com*

On Tue, Apr 10, 2018 at 2:51 PM McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Dear Dara:
>
> Thank you for your email. I am not a sponsor on this order and am currently working with various groups to better understand the intent and purpose of this order.
>
> **From:** Dara Freedman-Weiss [mailto:justdara@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:33 PM

**To:** McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
**Subject:** Call for Transparency and an end to the Demonization of Israel

Dear City Council Member Marc C. McGovern,

I respectfully oppose the lack of transparency and unfair singling out of Israel in this City Council Vote. As someone who is concerned about the city we live in and its public image, this resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of our city.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Regards,
Dara Freedman-Weiss
150 Gore St
Cambridge, MA 02141